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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,639	06/25/2003	Joel Lee Willetts	115743.00009	4047

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EXAMINER

BASTIANELLI, JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,639

Applicant(s)

WILLETTS, JOEL LEE

Examiner

John Bastianelli

Art Unit

3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/6/03.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Invention I, claims 1-19 in the reply filed on February 18, 2005 is acknowledged. Claims 1-19 are examined.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 4, at the end of the page, 22 is used to designate both male NPT fittings and a vapor passageway. Appropriate correction is required.

35 USC § 112 6th

3. It is unclear as to whether or not the applicant is invoking the 112 6th paragraph with the means plus function language in the claims. Please clarify.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 6-7, 12, 15, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knight US 3,884,251.

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6. Knight discloses a valve body assembly 50, a top head and cylinder assembly 80 having a hydraulic fluid port 104 and 102, a piston 76 moveable in a cylinder that has a piston rod 70 with a sealing plug 60, a means 86 for demountably securing the top head to the valve body that allows the top head to be axially removed without substantial rotation of the top head without removal of an attached hydraulic fluid line. The valve body has an inlet and outlet (for connection to are suggested use statements and do not have patentable weight).

7. Claims 1-4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McCafferty US 4,606,368.

McCafferty discloses a valve body assembly 10, a top head assembly 84, a means 94 for demountably securing the top head to the valve body that allows the top head to be axially removed without substantial rotation of the top head. The means is a clamp ring assembly that engages flanges 20 and 88 of each with the flanges having a planar register surface. The valve body has an inlet and outlet (for connection to are suggested use statements and do not have patentable weight).

8. Claims 1, 5-7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosking et al. US 5,974,827.

Hosking discloses a valve body assembly 1, a top head and cylinder assembly 5, a means (col. 10, lines 29-31) for demountably securing the top head to the valve body that allows the top head to be axially removed without substantial rotation of the top head. The valve body is a "T" style valve. The valve body has an inlet and outlet (for connection to are suggested use statements and do not have patentable weight).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 2-4, 8-10, 13-14, 18 and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight US 3,884,251 in view of McCafferty US 4,606,368.

Knight lacks a clamp ring. McCafferty discloses a clamp ring 94 between two planar flanges 20 and 88. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the clamp ring between two planar flanges as disclosed by McCafferty as the connection of Knight in place of the screws 86 as this would provide easier access and removal as only one clamp would have to be removed rather than multiple screws.

11. Claims 5, 11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight US 3,884,251 in view of Hosking et al. US 5,974,827.

Knight lacks a "T" style valve. Hosking discloses a "T" style valve. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the valve of Knight with as "T" style valve as disclosed by Hosking as this would provide an extra outlet therefore providing flow which can be routed to another area.

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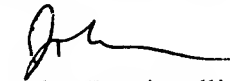
Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Morgan, Burcham, Torii, and Macgregor disclose a valve body, top head assembly, and a means for demountably securing without substantial rotation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Bastianelli whose telephone number is (571) 272-4921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Bastianelli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3751



JB

May 13, 2005